

NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

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SUBMISSION PROCESS

Additional materials. I have additional supplemental materials beyond what was outlined in the Request for Proposals, can I submit them?

Reviewers have been asked to review only the proposal narrative and the required supplemental materials, so there is no guarantee that they will review additional materials; however, submitting additional information will not disqualify an application. Please merge ALL proposal materials into a **single** PDF.

Application error. There is a mistake on my original submission PDF---can I make changes after I've uploaded it?

Yes. Log into [Program Hub](#) and return to the Innovations Grant application. Necessary changes to an application can be made until the submission window closes (Dec.1, 2015, 4 p.m. Eastern time). Any changes or additions will replace the data previously entered.

Direct mail. Can I send/email my proposal directly to the NCAA?

No. All proposals must be submitted via the NCAA Program Hub.

Institutional authorization. Do I need to work through my institution's grants/sponsored projects office on this proposal?

The NCAA does not have restrictions regarding who submits the grant proposal, nor is authorization required from an institutional official. Applicants are strongly encouraged to follow the grant application protocol established by their institution, department or college.

Multiple submissions. Is it allowable to submit more than one proposal from our institution?

Yes. Please note that only one proposal can be submitted per “Program Hub User”. Thus, if more than one proposal is being submitted by an institution, please note that there will need to be more than one “Program Hub User” with a profile in the Program Hub.

PI submission. Does the PI submit the application or does it have to be an institutional official?

There are no restrictions regarding who can upload the proposal—this can include a principal investigator (PI), administrative assistant or institutional grants officer. However, only one proposal can be submitted per “Program Hub User”. Thus, if an institution is submitting more than one proposal, please note that there will need to be more than one “Program Hub User” with a profile in the Program Hub.

ELIGIBILITY

Consultant or volunteer. I am a consultant or volunteer at an NCAA member institution—can I still apply for the funding?

At least one member of the PI team needs to be directly employed by an NCAA member institution.

Medical school employee. I am a researcher/faculty member/clinician at an NCAA member institution’s medical school (e.g., Indiana University School of Medicine), can I still apply?

Yes.

Non-NCAA affiliates. Do PIs need to be directly employed by a member institution? Can non-NCAA affiliates or organizations be a partner if they work with an appropriately affiliated PI?

At least one member of the PI team needs to be directly employed by an NCAA member institution.

Probationary period. Our institution’s athletics program is in an NCAA probationary period—can we still apply for the funding?

Yes. Institutions with active membership in the NCAA are permitted to receive grant funding, even if on probation.

Provisional membership. Our institution is currently a provisional member of the NCAA. May we still apply?

No. Only institutions with active NCAA membership status are able to receive grant funding from the NCAA. Those with provisional or reclassification status are not eligible for grant funding.

Student PIs. Can students be lead PIs on these grants?

Yes, however, all funded projects must receive institutional IRB approval. If the institution requires that a faculty member serve as lead PI on each IRB application, please list the designated faculty member as the PI. Additionally, graduate student applicants should be aware that if not funded during this highly competitive process, the NCAA also offers graduate student research [grants](#) on an annual basis.

University foundation. Is it allowable for us to apply for this grant through our university's foundation? In other words, the applicant would be the University Foundation, rather than the university itself.

Yes.

BUDGET

Fringe benefits. Is it permissible for the proposed budget to include fringe benefits related to personnel costs?

Yes, there are no restrictions on funding benefits for personnel.

Funding tiers. Are there separate review processes for the two tiers of grant funding?

PIs are encouraged to craft proposals reflecting the research project or pilot program they believe is the best fit for the Innovations Grant and then determine the funding needed to make it happen rather than trying to craft a \$50,000 or \$10,000 grant proposal. There will be \$100,000 distributed amongst awardees, but there are no restrictions on the exact number of grants to be given in order to allow the External Review Panel to have the flexibility to fund the most innovative and potentially impactful proposals. A number of proposals at the \$35,000 to \$50,000 range and many at the \$5,000 to \$10,000 level are expected to be in the 2016 pool, and each will be given equally careful consideration.

Indirect costs. My institution requires documentation noting that indirect or administrative costs are not covered by the grant funding. Will this be a problem?

Should your proposal be selected to receive an Innovations Grant you will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant that will state that such expenses are prohibited. If such documentation is needed in the proposal phase, please refer to the statement regarding the prohibition of such funding outlined in the 2016 Innovations Grant Call for Proposals.

Technology purchases. Can funds be spent to purchase technology equipment to be used by student-athletes as part of the study or does this pertain to only the equipment used by the researcher to complete the project?

Yes, this would be permissible as long as it is equipment needed for the execution of the study.

Transcription services. Can grant funding cover transcription costs?

Yes. The only expenses this grant funding will not cover are indirect costs, living expenses, conference registration fees and conference travel.

Tuition. Can student tuition be subsidized with this grant (e.g., graduate student tuition waiver)?

Yes, that is an allowable cost.

METHODS

NCAA data. Would the NCAA be able to provide data as part of a grant?

No, the NCAA will not be providing data to the grant recipients. Grantees will need to use external data or publically available NCAA data.

Participant lists. If funded, will the NCAA assist me in identifying and contacting study participants?

No. Grantees are expected to identify and recruit their own study participants and will not be assisted in this process by the NCAA.

Student-athlete compensation. We have student-athletes participating in our study—can we compensate them (monetarily or with gift cards)?

Compensating study participants would be allowable according to NCAA bylaws. NCAA Bylaw 16.11.1.7.2, Institution-Based Research Studies, notes that a “student-athlete may receive compensation from an institution for participating in a research study involving only student-athletes, provided: [R] (Adopted: 4/30/09)

- 1.The study is initiated and conducted by a faculty member at a member institution; and
- 2.The study and compensation arrangements are approved by the institutional review board of the faculty member’s institution consistent with policies applicable to other institution-based research studies.”

Target population. Does the targeted population of students have to be affiliated with the PI's institution or is it okay for them to come from various pools?

The aim of the grant is to benefit current and future student-athletes at NCAA member institutions. With that in mind, as long as the students in the target population are currently or previously enrolled at NCAA member institution(s) it would be in line with the aims of the grant.

TIMELINE

Grant cycle. What is the grant cycle for the NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant?

The term of the grant can be listed as March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017, as we recognize that many institutions require grant cycles to be at the first and last date of the month. However, we do not anticipate announcing the winners of the grants before mid-February 2016, and a letter of institutional IRB approval (if project applicable) will need to be submitted to the NCAA before the first installment of funds is disbursed.

Pilot program term. If one is proposing to implement a pilot program to impact student-athlete well-being would it be possible for the program to begin in the fall 2016 term?

Yes, a program implemented in Fall 2016 would be considered for funding. As the final report is due in early January, we expect that research results or pilot program outcomes will have been gathered by the end of the fall semester and analyzed for the final report in early January. While some applicants intend to initiate data gathering or pilot programs in the summer term (as many student-athletes are on campus at that time, especially at Division I institutions), this is not an expectation of the review committee, nor will such proposals will be given preference.

Project end date. Is there any flexibility in the end date of your program?

No. All final reports must be submitted to the NCAA by January 6, 2017.

Will I Be A Competitive Applicant...

Is there a preference for original scholarship research or for data-driven pilot programs?

No, there is not a preference. The most important thing is that proposals must outline how findings will be translated to campus-level programming that enhances the student-athlete experience.

Will a grant be competitive enough if it includes a stipend for a graduate student to work over the summer on the project and a course release for the primary investigator?

What will make a grant competitive is the quality of the proposed research/programming, not the items in the budget. If what is needed to fund an innovative, impactful research proposal is funding for summer salary for a graduate student and a course release, the reviewers would not have qualms about funding such items if they were enthusiastic about a proposal.